

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Sixth Sunday after Trinity
 July 15, 2007 through July 22, 2007

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Baptismal Life—What is the "baptismal life"? According to the catechism Baptism has daily significance in the life of every Christian. It defines who we are: Sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. But it also teaches us that we have the Old Adam, our sinful flesh, constantly about us who is an enemy of this faith. The Old Adam must be drowned and die. The New Man, Christ Himself, must rise up in us. This happens through the ministry of the Word, the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. The Old Adam is killed each time we hear the Law and say "Amen" to it: this is the sinner I am. The New Man arises in us each time we, as broken and contrite sinners, hear the Word of Absolution. When we hear that our sins are forgiven we are taken back to the central truth of our Baptism. This truth is not merely repeated as a bit of information, it is the power of God in our lives each day. This is what it means to live in our baptism daily.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Baptized into Christ and Freed from Sin.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 6:6-7

Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with,
 that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
 For he who has died has been freed from sin."

Psalm 19 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord Jesus, You are the Sun of righteousness with healing in Your wings. Enlighten our darkened understanding by Your holy Word. Enkindle our hearts and mold our wills to walk in faith, love, and hope every day of our lives. Let the light of Your Gospel shine to the nations that sit in darkness and preserve Your Church to the day of Your glorious coming to judge the living and the dead, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141
Evening	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143

The Catechism: Confession

<p><i>What is Confession?</i> Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.</p>	Kindergarten +
<p><i>What sins should we confess?</i> Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><i>Which are these?</i> Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?</p>	Third Grade +

Readings for the Week of Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Righteousness that Exceeds—Matthew 5:(17-19) 20-26	Judges 15:1—16:3	Galatians 3:23—4:11
Monday	The Rich Young Ruler—Luke 18:18-34	Judges 16:4-30	Galatians 4:12-31
Tuesday	Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus—Luke 18:35-43	1 Samuel 1:1-20	Galatians 5:1-26
Wednesday	Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus's House—Luke 19:1-10	1 Samuel 1:21—2:17	Galatians 6:1-18
Thursday	The Parable of the Minas—Luke 19:11-28	1 Samuel 2:18-36	Acts 15:22-41
Friday	The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers—Luke 20:1-19	1 Samuel 3:1-21	Acts 16:1-22
Saturday	Render to Caesar the Things that Are Caesar's—Lk 20:20-26	1 Samuel 4:1-22	Acts 16:23-40
Sunday	Sunday's readings	1 Sam. 5:1—6:3, 10-16	Acts 18:1-11, 23-28

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity:

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

*Mel and Marcie Gall celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.
 Those suffering with cancer: Peggy Kievit, sister of Beth Bender; John LaSage, brother of Steve LaSage; Donna Ziegler, sister of Virjean Schmidt; Bill Kallio, good friend of Judy Jones.
 Helping Hands, a Lutheran ministry to the Bulgarians.*

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of Week

“All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall”

562

Look forward to the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

July 22, 2007

Hymns: 561, Psalm 33:1-11, 819, 625, 918

Genesis 2:7-17: *The prophet Moses teaches us that we were created by God from the dust of the earth. Our life comes from the Word of God. The Tree of Life gave life according to God's promise, but man chose to turn away from that tree and go his own way. This is the origin of all sin and death. Christ redeems us from the curse by being lifted up upon the tree of the cross.*

Romans 6:19-21: *St. Paul teaches that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Mark 8:1-9: *Jesus is the bread of life. In the miracle of the feeding of the 4,000, He shows Himself to be the Savior of all people and the source of all life and salvation. The numbers in this story are not insignificant. Numbers in the Bible have familiar usages. The number seven is often God's number of perfection and is often associated with the Holy Spirit, His seven-fold gifts of grace, and the Church which is formed from every tribe and nation of people. The number four is often associated with the earth, sometimes spoken of as having "four corners"—north, south, east, and west—from which all the people of Christ's Church will come. The number ten is often the number of God's providential completeness in His dealings upon this earth. He does just the right things in just the right ways, etc. The number three refers to the Holy Trinity, Holy Baptism, and the Baptismal character of our faith, that we were buried with Him who was raised the third day. Therefore, by the use of the number three and the number seven multiplied ten times over, this miracle teaches that Jesus is Lord, the Holy One of God, the perfect and only savior of sinners who has provided salvation to the four corners of the earth.*